

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Memphis Flea Market
~May 18-19

Shepard's Haven
Fishing Rodeo
~June 6

Dennis Reis No Dust
Tour~June 8-9

USA Pullers Truck &
Tractor Pull~ June 8

BB Barrel Race
~June 14-16

Memphis Flea
Market~June 15-16

QDMA Banquet
~June 20

Battle in the
Saddle~June 28-30

Memphis Flea
Market~June 29-30

Women Run
Memphis
Registration~July 1

KidsTown
Consignment
Sale~July 11-13

Bridal
Rhapsody~July 14

Ag Technology Field
Day~July 18

Memphis Flea
Market~July 20-21

West TN Quarter
Horse Association
~July 26-28

Gun & Knife
Show~July 27-28

DASH Cooking
Event~July 27

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Agricenter

NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 1

May 2013

Ground-Breaking News at Agricenter!



Construction has already begun on a new research laboratory and state-of-the-art greenhouse facilities at *Agricenter International*. The expansion is being led by Bayer CropScience and Helena Chemical Company. The companies are making separate investments at *Agricenter International*, totaling almost \$20 million dollars.

Company representatives joined Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, City of Memphis Mayor AC Wharton, and other officials for ground-breaking ceremonies on

April 1st at *Agricenter International*. Bayer CropScience, with its North American headquarters in Research Triangle Park and global headquarters in Germany, has had an office at *Agricenter International* since 1992. The company plans to invest \$17 million to build a new greenhouse, which will include 40,000 square feet of growing space as well as a spacious headhouse and open office space.



Helena Chemical Company, headquartered in Collierville, is a national distributor of crop production inputs. It's had facilities at the *Agricenter International* for almost two decades. Specifically, the company's Helena Products Group will spend \$2.2 million on a new research/formulation laboratory and other facility improvements. Helena will have 20 more people based at *Agricenter International* by 2017 and five (5) more by 2022.



"We are pleased and proud that Bayer CropScience and Helena have the confidence in *Agricenter International*, the State of Tennessee and agriculture to make a \$20 million dollar investment in new research and development at this location. This is a significant statement and I want to thank both companies, the Agricenter Board of Directors and the Shelby County Agricenter Commission for the work conducted to make this a success." ~Bill Gillon, Chairman, Agricenter International Board of Directors.



2013 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



On Tuesday, March 19, 2013 Agricenter hosted a luncheon to honor the winners of our 2013 AgDay Poster Contest. Members of the Agricenter Board of Directors & staff were on hand to distribute certificates to the nine winners. First, Second, and Third place awards were granted in three different age groups. The winners received a certificate and cash prizes. This event was made possible by our generous sponsors: Helena Chemical, Mid-South Ag Club, and the Lumberman's Club of Memphis.



The Agricenter Board of Directors and staff congratulate Ron on his prestigious award!!

Ron Carlsson is named 2012 Lumberman of the Year

In December of 2012, Ron Carlsson was named the Lumberman of the Year by the Lumberman's Club of Memphis. Ron has been an Agricenter Board Member for 7 years. Born in 1940 in Stockholm, Sweden, he immigrated in 1947 with his parents to California. He grew up in the Los Gatos / Saratoga area, near San Jose. After a 6-month stint w/Uncle Sam and the Army Reserves as a Military Policeman, Ron worked in San Francisco for 10 years in the transportation industry. He attended the 51st class of National Hardwood Lumber Association Grading School in 1973 in Memphis, TN, and has been in the lumber industry ever since, mostly exporting hardwood lumber. In 1989, he opened his own export company, USA Woods International, Inc. As a wholesaler, he exports to Europe, the Far East, and Australia. In 1991, he was recognized by the Mid South Exporters Round Table as the "Exporter of the Year." Ron's industry and community activities include: six-year term as Member of the Board of Managers for the NHLA; Chairman of NHLA Educational Services Committee for 5 years; NHLA Building Committee; Member of the Board of Directors for AHEC (American Hardwood Export Council); AHEC Market Access Program Chairman for Southeast Asia 1995-1997; Member of Lumbermen's Club of Memphis – President in 2004-2005; Member of the Economics Club of Memphis; Member of Memphis Chamber of Commerce. Ron is married to Susan Carlsson and has two stepsons and five grandchildren. He is an active member of Holy Communion Church in Memphis, where he served on the Vestry. His free time is spent enjoying golf, church and gardening.

REGISTER

PLANT CAMP



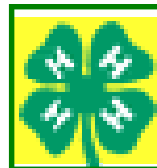
2013

**June
10 - 14**

OFFERED BY
**AGRICENTER INTERNATIONAL,
SHELBY COUNTY EXTENSION
AND YOUR MEMPHIS AREA
MASTER GARDENERS**

Register Now for Plant Camp & 4-H Camp

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE | **UT**
Extension



Tennessee 4-H

Junior 4-H Camp

Camp will be held June 10-14. Registration is \$310 and includes transportation to & from camp. Junior 4-H Camp is for youth who have completed grades 4-6. This five-day resident camp offers excellent youth programming. Activities include swimming, shooting sports, mini golf, group sports, fishing, tubing, nature hikes, leathercraft and woodworking, T-shirt airbrushing, skits, music, and more.

4-H Adventure Camp

Camp will be held July 1-4. Registration is \$235 and does NOT include transportation. 4-H Adventure Camp is for older youth who have completed grades 6-8. This resident camp offers adventure-type and active-engaged programming, with an emphasis on individual development and group dynamics through special interest groups and team challenges. Activities include mock archaeological digs, fishing, tubing, nature hikes, canoeing, swimming, shooting sports, T-shirt airbrushing, survivor challenges, and more.

To Register for 4-H Camp, please contact the UT Extension office at 901-752-1207. For more information on 4-H programs visit <http://4h.tennessee.edu>.

To register for plant camp call 901-757-7777 ext. 7100.
For more information visit www.agricenter.org

Secretary Vilsack visits Agricenter



"Previous to this there hadn't been a lot of attention given to young farmers who didn't really need or want hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans" said Vilsack, who has headed the USDA since 2009.

that produce for "Locally Grown" farmer's markets and possible small BioEnergy new plant crop production. The Town Hall meeting was attended by members of press, local citizens, and Agricenter Board and Commission members.

"This microloan program could benefit growers like the farmers and beekeepers who come to the Farmer's Market," said John Charles Wilson, Agricenter President, "For whatever reason, there are fewer small farmers everyday."



Pictured from Left to Right: Bill Gillon, Agricenter International Chairman of the Board; Tom Vilsack, USDA Secretary of Agriculture; John Charles Wilson, Agricenter International President; Ken Plunk, Chairman of the Shelby County Agricenter International Commission.

It was a cold, icy day on Tuesday, January 15 when the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, visited Agricenter International. The primary reason for his visit was the announcement of a new "Micro Loan" program that will be administered by the Farm Services Agency (FSA). The program is for loans less than \$35,000 for beginning farmers, small and disadvantaged farmers, and potentially many growers

Admission is Free!

Giveaways & Prizes!

Saturday August 3rd

9am - 12pm

Agricenter International

Open to 2nd - 6th graders! *

- Hands on experiments!
- Ask experts all your weather questions!
- Be a weathercaster on the TV weather wall!
- Launch weather balloons!
- Fly a plane around a storm!
- Meet the FOX13 Weather Team!

*Pre-registration required







Farmer's Market NOW OPEN

The Farmer's Market at the Red Barn is NOW OPEN for the season!!!

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday
7:30am-5:30pm

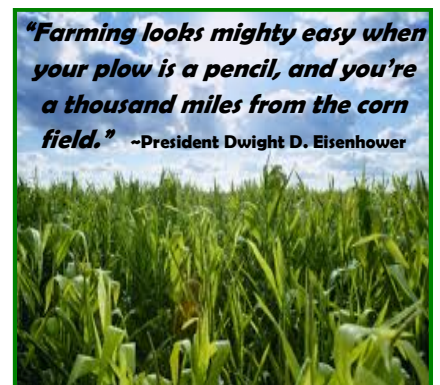
Saturday
7am-5:30pm

Stop by today to see the freshest selection of locally grown produce, custom made crafts, fresh baked breads, and more.

Call 901-757-7777 for more information.



"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." ~President Dwight D. Eisenhower





Agricenter International

7777 Walnut Grove Road
Memphis, TN 38120

Visit us online at
www.agricenter.org

“Our farmers deserve praise, not condemnation;
and their efficiency should be cause for gratitude,

“Our farmers deserve praise, not condemnation;
and their efficiency should be cause for gratitude,
not something for which they are penalized.”

~President John F. Kennedy

Mid-South AgTechnology Field Day

Thursday, July 18, 2013
Tours start at 7:00 a.m.

This will be an exciting field day as several
companies will be highlighting their new
and upcoming products. Tours will consist of
variety trials, new pesticide technologies,
and much, much more!

Tours will run throughout the morning until
noon.

Lunch will be
provided.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Thursday, June 6th from 9am until noon,
Agricenter will be hosting a fishing rodeo for
Shepherd's Haven at Catch 'em Lake.

The story of Shepherd's Haven began with a meeting of a small group of Christian parents. The common bond between this group of parents was that each had a child who was mentally challenged. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the future of their special children. They researched vital statistics of Tennessee and found that approximately three percent of our state's population was mentally challenged. For Shelby County alone, that meant nearly 30,000 people could possibly use their help. They also considered what might happen to their own children as they, the parents, grew older and could no longer care for their children. They prayed and asked the Lord for wisdom and discernment. What came out of that prayer was the Lord's leading to begin building homes where mentally challenged adults could live as a family. In 1991 they decided to purchase a beautiful piece of property in Fayette County. The 47 acres they purchased they decided to name Shepherd's Haven. After paying the land off in 1992 they began the process of working to build the first home. In August of 1996 they opened an eight bedroom home for mentally challenged men. They recently opened a Women's home. To learn more about Shepherd's Haven in Arlington, visit www.shepherdshaven.org.

If you would like to volunteer at this special event,
please contact the Agricenter main office at
901-757-7777 extension 7101.